

SEEN BY

GACarver, Jr.
CHI/SAVA

S E C R E T

2		6	
3		7	
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25X1

21 Dec 71

SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

☐ INDEX☐ NO INDEX☐ RETURN TO _____ BRANCH☐ FILE RIDPER 11/20/71 #2 F. G.☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO. _____

25X1

SAVA

INFO

FILE, VR, DEL, D/DEL, DDP,

25X1

(edit)

(reference number)

(pica)

S E C R E T

21 Dec 71 23 19z

CITE DIRECTOR

25X1

IMMEDIATE SAIGON

25X1

RYBAT

REFS: A. DIRECTOR

CS Comment: *An exchange between NSC
Staff and Ambassador Bunker concerning the
*release of prisoners of war.

25X1

25X1

B. SAIGON

PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER (IF POSSIBLE BEFORE HIS

DEPARTURE) THE FOLLOWING JOINT NSC/STATE/DEFENSE/AGENCY

NSC review completed

MESSAGE:

"1. APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS AND ANALYSIS REF B.

25X1

BASIC QUESTION TO BE FACED APPEARS TO BE AVAILABILITY OF

25X1

25X1

IMMEDIATE RELEASE. WE ACCEPT YOUR PLAN FOR MOVING DPMO review(s)
completed.

TO ANOTHER FACILITY IN SAIGON TO REWAKEN

INTEREST OF OTHER SIDE. IN ~~DISCUSSING~~ DISCUSSING THIS MOVE WITHTHIEU, HOWEVER, WE HOPE HIS ~~AGREEMENT~~ AGREEMENT CAN BE SECURED

25X1

AT SAME TIME TO THE CONCEPT OF

25X1

THE EXCHANGE FOR PRISONERS, AS

25X1

OUTLINED IN THE SCENARIO GIVEN IN PARA 6 OF REF A. WE SEE

NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY DELAYING APPROACH TO THIEU ON THIS

COORDINATING OFFICERS

S E C R E T

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassificationAUTHENTICATING
OFFICER

State Dept. review completed

COPY NO.

SECRET

NSC review completed

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY			
1		5	
2		6	
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SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

☐ INDEX☐ NO INDEX☐ RETURN TO _____ BRANCH☐ FILE RID

PER _____ # _____

☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO. _____

INFO

FILE, VR,

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(elite)

(pica)

(reference number)

CITE DIRECTOR

25X1

PAGE TWO

QUESTION AND RECOMMEND IT BE MADE ASAP BY AMBASSADOR BUNKER.

"2. WE PROPOSE YOU INFORM THIEU THAT WE AGREE WITH HIS VIEW AS CONVEYED BY COL. BINH (PER YOUR MESSAGE OF OCT. 28) THAT A PRISONER SWAP SHOULD BE AN 'APPROPRIATE ONE' RESULTING IN POSITIVE GAIN FOR US/GVN SIDE. YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT, AS HE KNOWS, USG ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EARLIEST POSSIBLE RELEASE OF ANY AND ALL OF OUR PRISONERS IN ENEMY HANDS. THIS QUESTION HAS CONTINUED TO GROW IN IMPORTANCE IN US, AND WE WOULD CONSIDER RELEASE OF _____ PRISONER

25X1

FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS, PLUS THE RELEASE OF A SMALL ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF US/GVN PRISONERS AS GOOD VALUE _____

25X1

"3. YOU COULD FURTHER NOTE THAT USG HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PRESSURE IN RECENT PERIOD ON PRISONER RELEASES, WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON OUR ALLEGED REFUSAL TO RELEASE THE TWO MEN WHOSE NAMES WERE BROUGHT OUT BY SGT. SEXTON. WE

5
4
3
2
1

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassificationAUTHENTICATING
OFFICER

COPY NO.

S E C R E T

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TOTAL COPIES:

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SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

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BRANCH

☐ FILE RID

PER

#

☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.I
N
F
O

FILE, VR,

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(elite)

(pica)

(reference number)

CITE DIRECTOR

25X1

PAGE FOUR

AWARE OF NEED TO GUARD AGAINST TRICKS BY OTHER SIDE. TWO HELI-
COPTER FORMULA WOULD HELP SIGNAL TO COMMUNIST SIDE THAT WE
WILL EXPECT GOOD VALUE FOR RELEASE [REDACTED] IN FORM OF A
NUMBER OF US/GVN PRISONERS.

25X1

"5. IN VIEW OF LONG PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE SEXTON RELEASE,

WE HOPE THAT THIEU'S CONCURRENCE [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] CAN BE OBTAINED ~~XXX~~ QUICKLY, AND THAT FURTHER ACTIONS WILL
BE TAKEN WITHOUT DELAY. WE SUGGEST [REDACTED] NEW
SAIGON FACILITY AT ONCE AND THAT NEW ADS BE RUN IN SAIGON
PAPERS WITHIN A FEW DAYS, WITHOUT WAITING UNTIL JAN. 17. IF CALL
IS RECEIVED, WE RECOMMEND YOU FOLLOW SCENARIO SET FORTH
PARA SIX OF REF A.

25X1

"6. WE AGREE WITH POINT IN PARA ONE OF REF B THAT THERE
MAY BE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING OTHER SIDE TO PROVIDE PRECISE
INFORMATION ON NAMES, NATIONALITIES, AND NUMBERS OF ~~XXX~~ PRISONERS
THEY WOULD RELEASE IN EXCHANGE [REDACTED] AS ~~SECRET~~

25X1

COORDINATING OFFICERS

RELEASING OFFICER

S E C R E T

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassificationAUTHENTICATING
OFFICER

SECRET

COLLECTING OFFICE INITIALS -		SEEN BY
2		6
3		7
4		8

SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

☐ INDEX☐ NO INDEX☐ RETURN TO _____☐ FILE RID

PER _____ # _____

☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO. _____

INFO

FILE, VR,

(classification)

(date and time filed)

(elite)

(pic)

(reference number)

25X1

CITE DIRECTOR

PAGE FIVE

STATED IN REF A, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT WANT THIS QUESTION TO
BECOME A STICKING POINT. PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO SECURE
RELEASE OF US AND GVN PRISONERS, AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. QUESTIONS
OF NAMES, NUMBERS, AND NATIONALITY ARE SECONDARY TO THIS
PURPOSE, AND WE DO NOT WANT TO LET THEM ~~STAY~~ STAND IN THE WAY
OF AN ACTUAL RELEASE/EXCHANGE."

END OF MESSAGE

Note: The above message was drafted by Mr. Sieverts of the Department of
State. It was reviewed, edited and approved at a 21 December meeting chaired
by Mr. Sullivan and attended by Mr. Sieverts, Mr. Holdridge and Mr. Edmundson

ILLEGIB _____ JSC, Dr. Shields, Admiral Epes and Col. Mayer of Defense, and Messrs.

ILLEGIB _____ Mr. Holdridge checked telephonically with General
_____ release of the above text.

25X1

END OF MESSAGE

25X1

25X1

RELEASING OFFICER

C/FE

COORDINATING OFFICERS

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

George A. Carver, Jr.

SAVA
AUTHENTICATING
OFFICER